Spring 1-15-2005

ENG 5010-001: 20th Century American Creative Nonfiction

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20th Century American Creative Nonfiction: Eng 5010--001
7-9:30, CH 3159
Professor Martin Scott
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Phones: 581-6289 office; 549-3522 cell
Office Hours: MWF 11-12, 3-4:30; T 6-7 or by appointment

Texts: Best American Essays of the Century
   The Souls of Black Folk.
   The Education of Henry Adams.
   Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.
   A Moveable Feast.
   Speak, Memory.
   In Cold Blood.
   An American Childhood.
   The Liars' Club.
   Bone Black.

Schedule of Assignments:

Jan 13 Intro to course and creative nonfiction.

   20 The Souls of Black Folk. BAE Twain, Muir, Addams.

   27 The Education of Henry Adams. BAE Bourne.

Feb. 3 Adams, cont’d. BAE Chapman.


   17 Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas. BAE Wilson, Stein, Thurber, Agee.

   24 A Moveable Feast. BAE Fitzgerald, Wright, Frost, White, Perelman, Hughes.

Mar 3 Essay #1 due. Speak, Memory. BAE Porter, McCarthy, Carson.

   10 Speak, Memory. BAE Baldwin, Eiseley, Welty, Hall.

Spring Break March 14-18

   24 In Cold Blood. BAE King, Wolfe, Sontag, Momaday.

   31 An American Childhood. BAE Herr, Angelou, Thomas.
Apr. 7  An American Childhood. BAE McPhee, Gass, Kingston.


21  The Liars’ Club. BAE Rodriguez, Erlich, Ozick.


Essay 2 due May 4.

Grade Calculation:  
- Essay 1: 40%
- Essay 2: 40%
- Class work: 20%

Plagiarism:  Here is the English Dept. policy—“Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

Attendance:  Class attendance is mandatory and expected. Class participation is an essential part of the course and of your development as an educated, articulate person. If you are having a problem, please contact me by phone, email or in person in my office so we can discuss the matter. Also, please try to avoid being late—it is disturbing to the flow of class, and therefore a significant pattern of tardiness will lower your class participation grade.

Office hours:  Please feel free to drop in to chat with me during my scheduled hours or to make an appointment for your convenience. I would especially be willing to look at rough drafts of essays or to field any questions you might have about assignments.

Disabilities:  If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Quizzes/In-class writing:  Unannounced quizzes may be given at the beginning of class. These may not be made up. Also, micro theme writing exercises may sometimes be assigned for the last few minutes of class in response to the readings and discussion. These also may not be made up. It is clearly to your advantage to attend on time having read the assignments carefully.
Format for essays: Type or print out your essays on standard sized white paper. Double space. Use a 12 point font such as Times New Roman, plain and not fancy. Use MLA format throughout. Length: at least 15 pages each.